



**2019 Annual Conference**  
***Changing Minds, Changing Lives:***  
***Rethinking Treatment for People Living with Serious Mental Illness***

**Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 in Norwood, MA**

**Morning Breakout Session**  
***Screening, Assessing, and Treating the Suicidal Patient (1CE)***

**Presented by Gregg Januszewski, Psy.D.**  
**Psychologist, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital**

Evaluation of the suicidal patient has long been a daunting task without much empirical direction and with heavy reliance on clinical judgment. The reliability of practitioners' evaluations of suicide risk has been extremely limited. This presentation will provide an overview of the evolution of suicide risk evaluation approaches, describing the strengths and limitations of each model. It will outline the practice recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for screening and assessing patients for suicide risk. The interrelated constructs of suicide risk assessment and treatment of the suicidal patient will be discussed.

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the use of C-SSRS severity level as a screening tool.
2. Describe the difference between screening and assessing patients' suicide risk.
3. Combine suicide related theories, evidence-based tools, and best practices to evaluate and treat suicidal patients.

**Gregg Januszewski, Psy.D.** received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Hartford in 1997. He worked briefly in a substance abuse clinic in Vermont before settling in central Massachusetts. He worked for 18 years at Community Healthlink, a community mental health center in Worcester. There he had the privilege of doing long term psychotherapy with patients who had severe and persistent mental illnesses, substance use issues, and homelessness. Some of his other roles during those years included Urgent Care Coordinator, Clinical Director of a Crisis Stabilization Unit, and Liaison to Worcester State Hospital to facilitate the transition of patients from hospital to community care. Four years ago he began his work at the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital, a state-of-the-art public sector psychiatric hospital that opened in Fall 2012. WRCH replaced inpatient beds from the former Worcester State Hospital, Westborough State Hospital and Taunton State Hospital. In this position he has become actively involved in the both the hospital's and the state's Zero Suicide committees, helping to shape policies and practices related to suicide screening, assessment, and treatment. He has provided guidance and training on suicide evaluation and treatment to psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers and administrators at hospitals around the state.